IN THIS ISSUE: THE STARLING™
ECLIPSE COMICS
DESTROYER DUCK™
No. 6
$1.50
$1.95 in Canada
A TALE OF PERIL, PATHOS & PERSPIRATION!
ZOMBIES IN PARADISE
KATO

DESTROYER DUCK created by STEVE GERBER & JACK KIRBY
BUZZ DIXON WRITER
GARY KATO ARTIST
ALFREDO ALCALA INKER
G. KATO, LETTERER
ODERFLA, COLORIST
STEVE GERBER, EDITOR
ZOMBIES in PARADISE
CHASSSH!
GODCORP IS DEAD!
ITS CULPABILITY IN THE HOQOOM NUCLEAR DISASTER* HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. A FEDERAL COURT HAS ORDERED THE CONGLOMERATE'S ASSETS LIQUIDATED AND DISBURSED AS REPARATIONS TO THAT TINY MIDEAST NATION.
AS A RESULT, DUKE (DESTROYER) DUCK HAS BEEN WITHOUT AN ENEMY FOR SOME FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.
FORTY-NINE WOULD HAVE BEEN A RECORD.
* AS SEEN LAST ISSUE. — SG.
QUAAGH!!
YOU SOLD MY DUFFEL BAG?! I'LL MANGLE YOU FOR THIS, QUENTIN!!

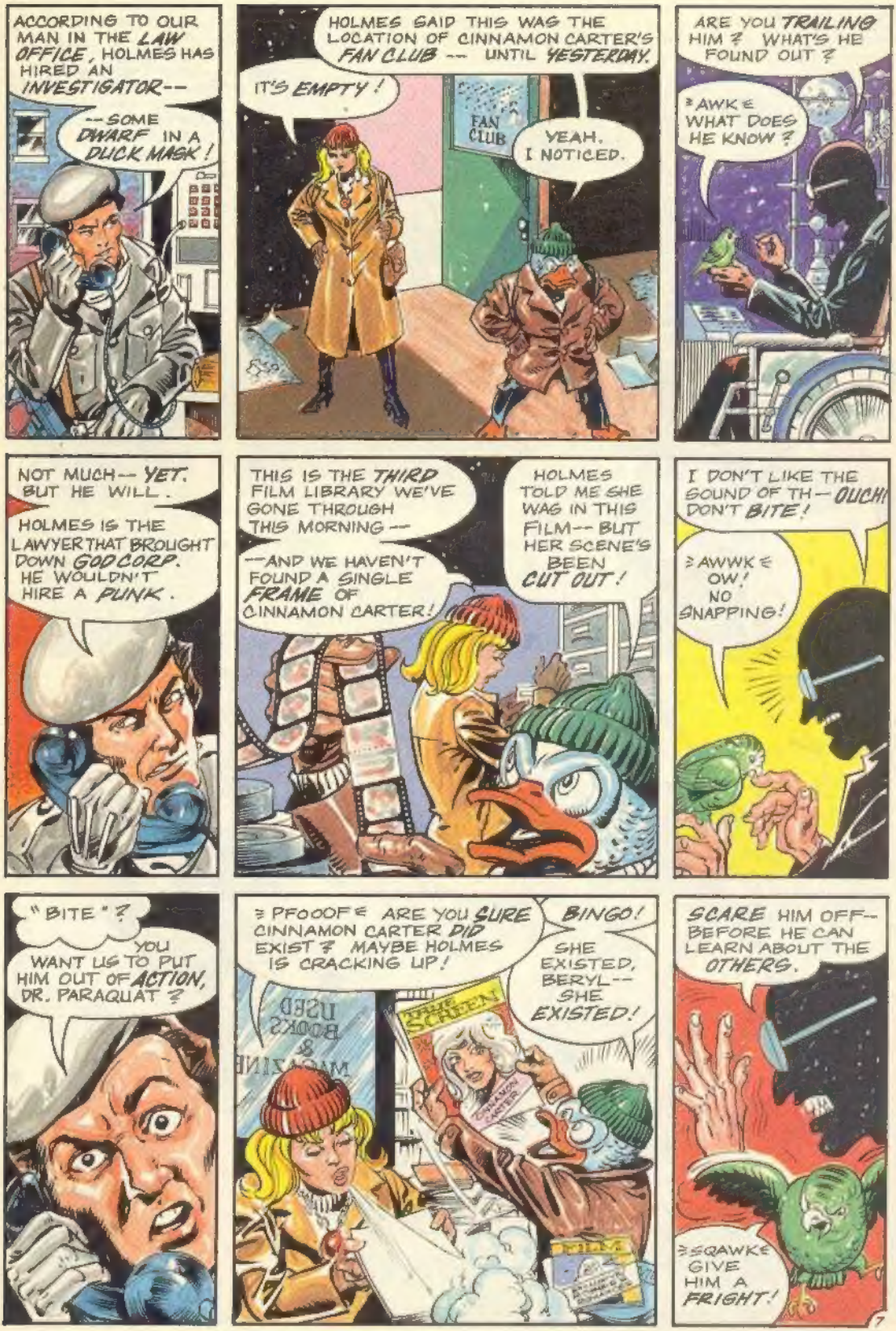
TH-THE MANAGER MADE ME, DUKE! HONEST! HE FIGGERED -- YOUSE SKIPPED OUT ON YER BILL!
MY .357 MAGNUM WAS IN THAT BAG! SO WAS MY FLAMETHROWER -- AND MY FIRST PAIR OF CUFFS!
IT'S NOT JUST THE MONEY, QUENTIN -- THAT STUFF HAD SENTIMENTAL VALUE!
THOK
BERYL MUDGE AND BRAD WHITE RUSH TO RESTRAIN THE FURIOUS FOWL . . . !
ENOUGH DUKE! GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF!
YES -- DO. MINE IS PRONE TO SLIPPAGE.
=SNORT< AAAH -- SHADDUP!
THOGE CRUMBS EVEN SOLD THE DIMENSIONAL TRANSPORT I WAS BUILDING -- FOR SCRAP! I GOT NOTHIN'! -- AND NOWHERE TO GO!
GUESS AGAIN, DUCKO.
GUESS WE'RE GONNA BE ROOMIES, BERYL!
"WHILE YOU WERE MEETING WITH DESTROYER LAWYER HOLMES,* BRAD AND I PAID A VISIT TO MY PLACE.
"REMEMBER THE COGBURNS I FLAMBEED BEFORE WE LEFT FOR HOGOOM? WELL, THE FIRE SPREAD. MY APARTMENT'S UNINHABITABLE. DITTO BRAD'S."
* ALSO IN D.D. #5. ... E.G.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE VAGRANTS.
HO-HO! CHEER UP, DUKE! UNBEKNOWNST TO YOU, I HAVE ARRANGED A JOYOUS SURPRISE!
BRAD... CRAWL BACK IN THE WOODWORK.
COSMIC DINER
EAT ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE

OH, GEE! LOOK WHO'S BACK! MY SISTER BERYL-- WHO DOESN'T CARE IF I LIVE OR DIE--
--WHO DISAP-PEARS FOR TWO HOURS AND LEAVES ME IN THE CARE OF A DRUNKEN DWARF!
OH, NO! OPAL -- I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T THINK-- I MEAN-- THIS PLACE DOESN'T SERVE LIQUOR!
»HEEC« MORE... ROUM CAKE ...POR FAVOR...!
I PROMISE, HONEY -- THIS'LL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!
LIKE POOK IT WON'T! PABLO'S A BOOZER -- BRAD'S A CREEP -- AND THAT DUCK IS TOTALLY WEIRD!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY NORMAL FRIENDS?
WAITER! MY BOMBED-OUT BUDDY WANTS A CUP OF COFFEE!
CHU LIE! »HEEC« I DON' DREENK COFFEE! CAFFEINE MAKES ME »HEEC« JOOMPY!
OH, DUKE! IT'S TIME FOR MY JOYOUS SURPRISE!
ANOTHER TIME, BRAD.
BUT I'M JUST BURSTING TO TELL YOU THE GOOD NEWS!
I'VE SECURED AFFORDABLE LODGINGS FOR YOU!
»QUAAGH« YOU CALL THAT "AFFORDABLE"...?!
HIGHLY.. THE OWNER HAS HAD GREAT DIFFI-CULTY SECURING A TENANT.
BUT, BRAD-- WHY?

I TRULY DON'T KNOW. THE OWNER DID ALLUDE TO SOME UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED HERE MANY YEARS AGO--
--BUT HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE.
I BET IT WAS AN AXE-MURDER! I BET THE BODIES ARE HIDDEN IN THE WALLS!
OPAL, DON'T BE SILLY!
=HOOORP= MY SEESTER WONCE WORKED EEN A PLACE LIKE THEES...!
THE RENT IS ONLY $200 PER MONTH. I KNEW YOU WERE SHORT OF CASH, SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF PAYING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.
UH...
THAT ROOM HAS THE BEST LIGHT. IT CAN BE YOUR ART STUDIO, BERYL.
AND THERE'S A ROOM FOR OPAL, ONE FOR DUKE, AND ONE FOR--
OH, GOD! DON'T SAY IT!! WE'RE ALL GONNA LIVE HERE-- RIGHT?!
OH, HOW EMBARRASSING. I'VE TROD THE PATH OF PRESUMPTION.
IF MY =CHOKE= PRESENCE WOULD BE REPUGNANT...
UH... NO, BRAD... I MEAN, I REALLY APPRECIATE...!
AW, NUTS--MAYBE I DON'T BELONG HERE, EITHER, BRAD. I'M A SOLO ACT.
BUT WE COULD TRY IT... TEMPORARILY...
COULDN'T HURT... FOR A WHILE...
MMMM
OH, THANK YOU-- THANK YOU!!
=WAA-AAAH!!=
4

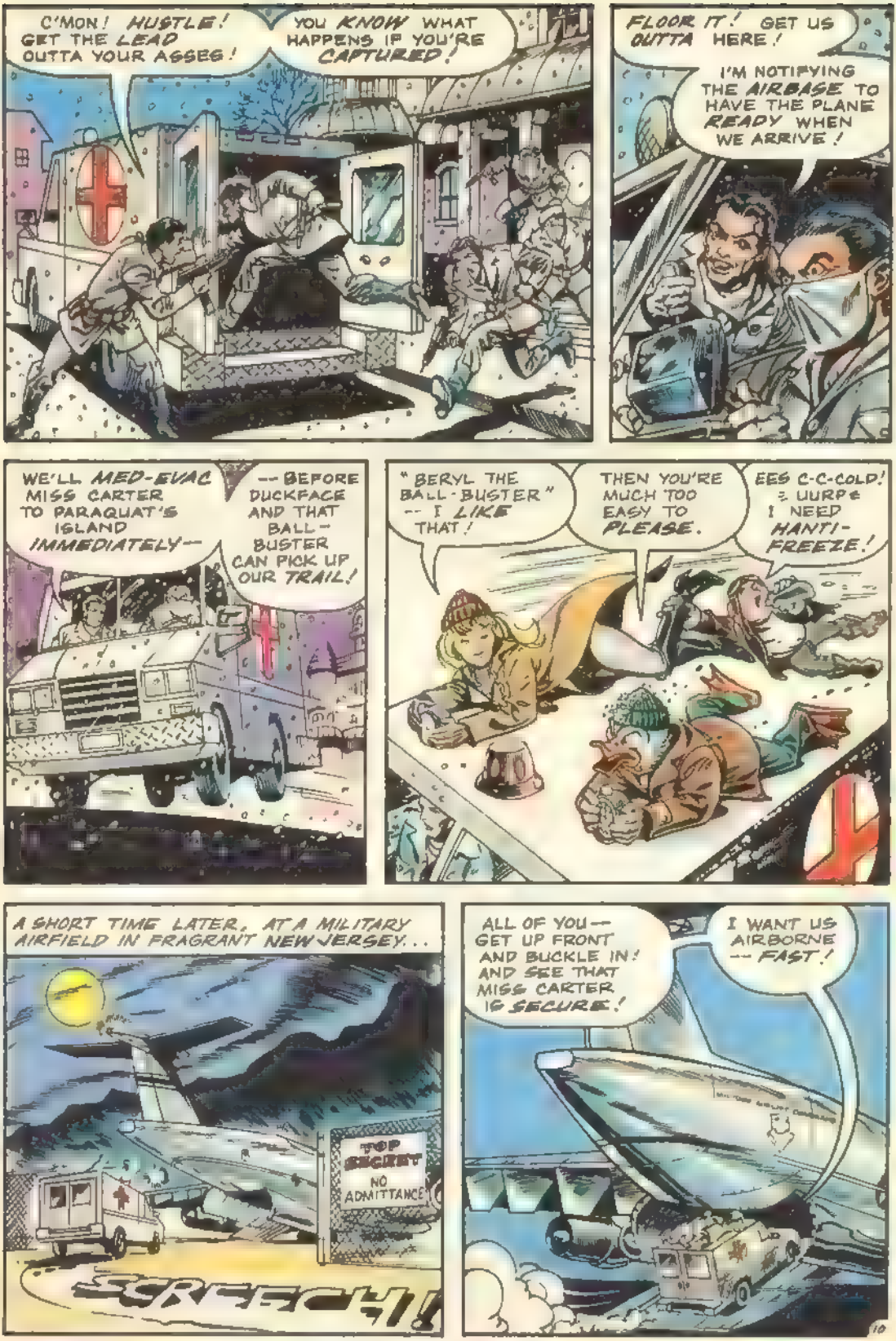
MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN, MOVIE ACTRESS CINNAMON CARTER PHONES FOR HELP, HER VOICE TREMBLING WITH TERROR.
HOLMES! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! THEY'RE TRYING TO ELIMINATE ME!
THEY'RE TRYING TO ERADICATE MY CAREER AND MY LIFE!
WHO, CINNAMON? SOMEONE FROM THE STUDIO?
NO -- THEY'RE MEN IN WHITE! I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE --
--BUT I THINK THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL ME!
EEE EEEK!!
DON'T MAKE A MOVE -- DON'T MAKE NOISE -- AND YOU WON'T GET HURT!
WE'RE PARAMILITARY PARAMEDICS -- AND YOU'RE UNDER QUARANTINE!
CINNAMON? WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPP--
KRUNCH!!

DESTROYER LAWYER HOLMES RACES TO THE SCENE IN HIS NEWLY ACQUIRED LAWMOBILE, BUT . . . !
DAMN CROSSTOWN TRAFFIC ! I'M TOO LATE ! SHE'S GONE -- WITHOUT A TRACE !
I'M GOING TO NEED INVESTIGATIVE HELP ON THIS ONE !
NEXT MORNING . . .
IT'S INCREDIBLE. ALL LEGAL RECORDS OF CINNAMON CARTER'S EXISTENCE HAVE VANISHED -- EVEN FROM THIS OFFICE !
WHO HAD ACCESS TO THE STUFF ?
MYSELF -- MY SECRETARY -- MAYBE A PARALEGAL WE USE OCCASIONALLY.
THERE'S NO ANSWER AT HER FAN CLUB -- I CAN'T GET A FILM CLIP OF HER FROM THE STUDIO -- AND I WANT TO KNOW WHY !
OKAY, HOLMES . . . I'LL TAKE THE CASE.
BY THE WAY, ANYTHING NEW ON GODCORP ? ANY LEADS ON THE LITTLE GUY ?
NOTHING -- AND DON'T THINK ABOUT IT WHILE YOU'RE ON THIS JOB.
WHOEVER WE'RE DEALING WITH, THEY'RE UTTERLY RUTHLESS.
SO AM I.
DUKE ! WHAT DID HOLMES WANT ? DID HE HAVE WORK FOR US ?
FOR ME. AND WHAT'RE YOU DOING ON MY TAIL ?
I HAD TO GET OUT. BRAD'S VERY SUSCEPTIBLE TO MY PHEROMONES. HIS FAWNING WAS MAKING ME CRAZY.
I BET OPAL'S THRILLED TO DEATH . . . !

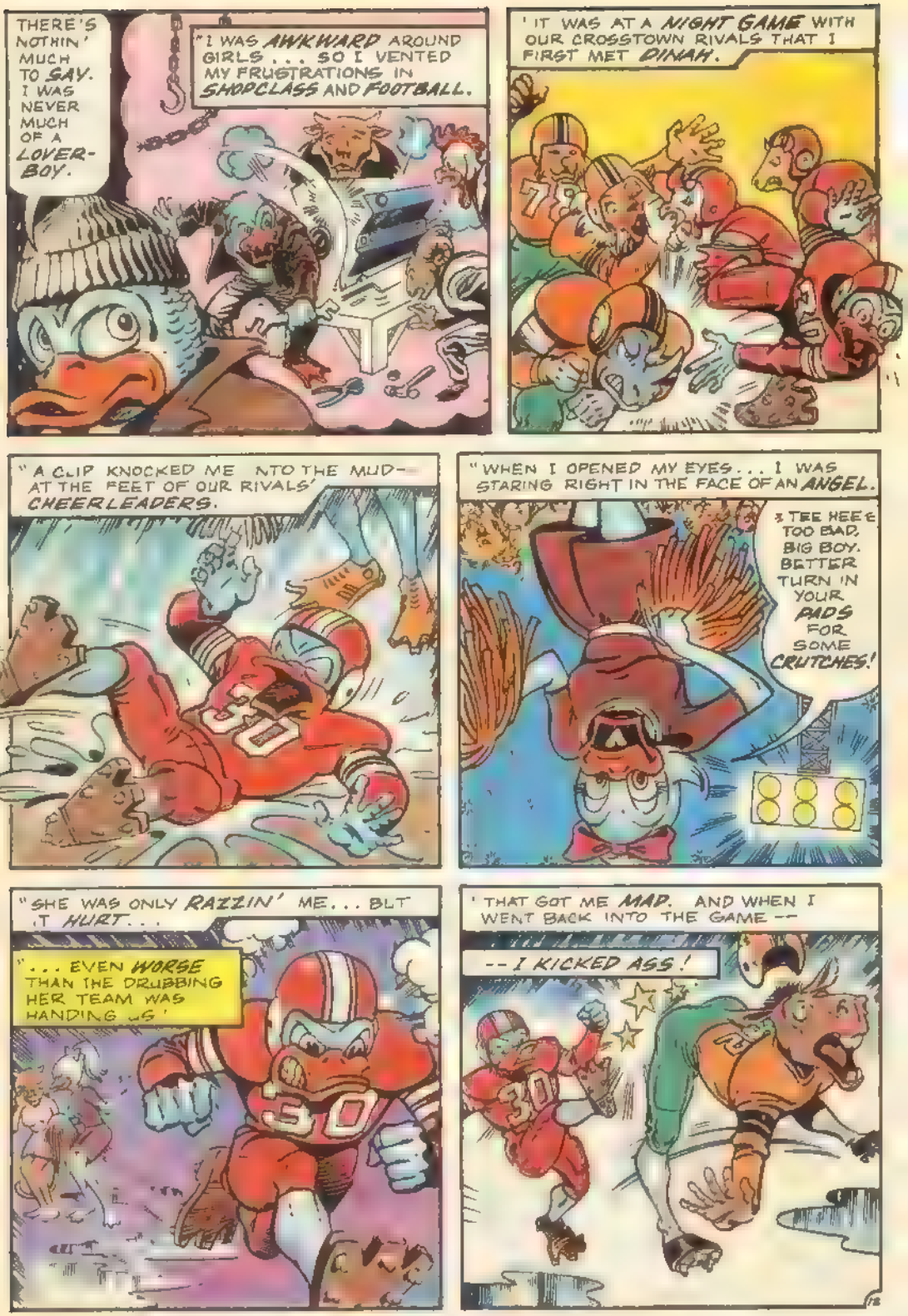

ACCORDING TO OUR MAN IN THE LAW OFFICE, HOLMES HAS HIRED AN INVESTIGATOR--
--SOME DWARF IN A DUCK MASK!
HOLMES SAID THIS WAS THE LOCATION OF CINNAMON CARTER'S FAN CLUB -- UNTIL YESTERDAY.
IT'S EMPTY!
FAN CLUB
YEAH. I NOTICED.
ARE YOU TRAILING HIM? WHAT'S HE FOUND OUT?
AWK WHAT DOES HE KNOW?
NOT MUCH-- YET. BUT HE WILL.
HOLMES IS THE LAWYER THAT BROUGHT DOWN GODCORP. HE WOULDN'T HIRE A PUNK.
THIS IS THE THIRD FILM LIBRARY WE'VE GONE THROUGH THIS MORNING --
--AND WE HAVEN'T FOUND A SINGLE FRAME OF CINNAMON CARTER!
HOLMES TOLD ME SHE WAS IN THIS FILM-- BUT HER SCENE'S BEEN CUT OUT!
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF TH-- OUCH! DON'T BITE!
AWWK OW! NO SNAPPING!
"BITE"?
YOU WANT US TO PUT HIM OUT OF ACTION, DR. PARAQUAT?
PFOOOF ARE YOU SURE CINNAMON CARTER DID EXIST? MAYBE HOLMES IS CRACKING UP!
BINGO!
SHE EXISTED, BERYL-- SHE EXISTED!
USED BOOKS & MAGAZINE
THE SCREEN
SCARE HIM OFF-- BEFORE HE CAN LEARN ABOUT THE OTHERS.
SQAWK GIVE HIM A FRIGHT!

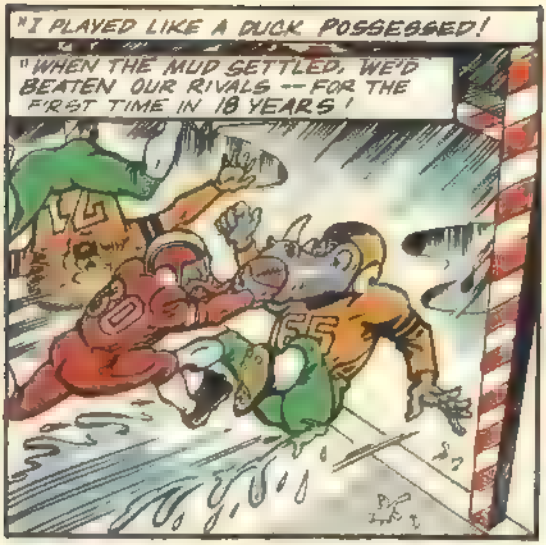
ABSENT YOURSELF FROM THESE PREMISES!
I HOFF 'N' YUURP AS MOOCH RIGHT HERE AS YOU!
QUIET, YA POOK-FACES!!
UH-OH. I WAS AFRAID OF THIS...!
YOU'RE NOT WELCOME HERE, YOU SOT!
POOT ME DOWN-- WEEMP!
SHUT UP!! I'M TRYIN' TO WATCH BILLY IKON ON MT-TV!
WET! WET! WET! WET! DAMPENING MYSELF-- I WOULD BE DAMPENING MYSELF!
QUIT BITCHIN'-- OR YOU'LL ALL SUCK SIDEWALK!!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME NICE, PLEASANT PEACE AND--
-- RELAXATION ?
FREEZE! NOBODY MOVE! IF YOU CO-OPERATE--
--MAYBE WE CAN AVOID ANY BLOODSHED!
NO PROBLEM! I MEAN, AT THE VERY LEAST...
KRASSH!

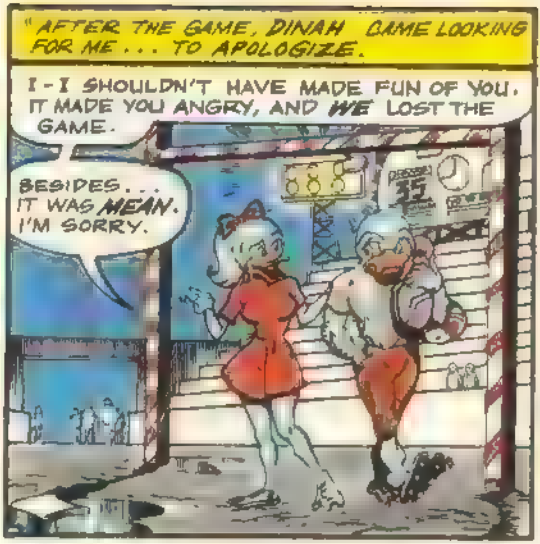
WONK!
...WE'LL KEEP THE CASUALTIES ALL ON ONE SIDE!
≥UGGH≤
≥HOOMF!≤
YEAH-- THEIRS!
MOLESTING THE GOORL I LOVE! CHUST WHO DO YOU THEENK YOU HAR--?
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW!
YOU WOULDN'T BE THE "MEN IN WHITE" WHO SNATCHED CINNAMON CARTER WOULDJA?
ATTACKING DEFENSELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN --YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!
≥GURK≤
THOOMP!
ABORT OPERATION! EVACUATE!
REGROUP AT THE AMBULANCE!

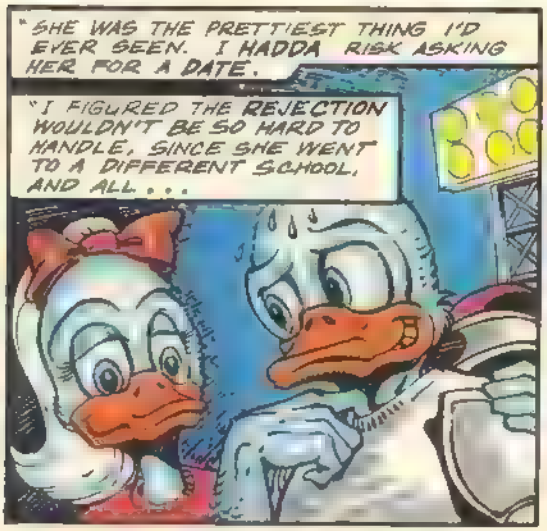

C'MON! HUSTLE! GET THE LEAD OUTTA YOUR ASSES!
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU'RE CAPTURED!
FLOOR IT! GET US OUTTA HERE!
I'M NOTIFYING THE AIRBASE TO HAVE THE PLANE READY WHEN WE ARRIVE!
WE'LL MED-EVAC MISS CARTER TO PARAQUAT'S ISLAND IMMEDIATELY--
--BEFORE DUCKFACE AND THAT BALL-BUSTER CAN PICK UP OUR TRAIL!
"BERYL THE BALL-BUSTER" -- I LIKE THAT!
THEN YOU'RE MUCH TOO EASY TO PLEASE.
EES C-C-COLD! UURP! I NEED ANTI-FREEZE!
A SHORT TIME LATER, AT A MILITARY AIRFIELD IN FRAGRANT NEW JERSEY...
TOP SECRET
NO ADMITTANCE
SCREECH!
ALL OF YOU-- GET UP FRONT AND BUCKLE IN! AND SEE THAT MISS CARTER IS SECURE!
I WANT US AIRBORNE -- FAST!

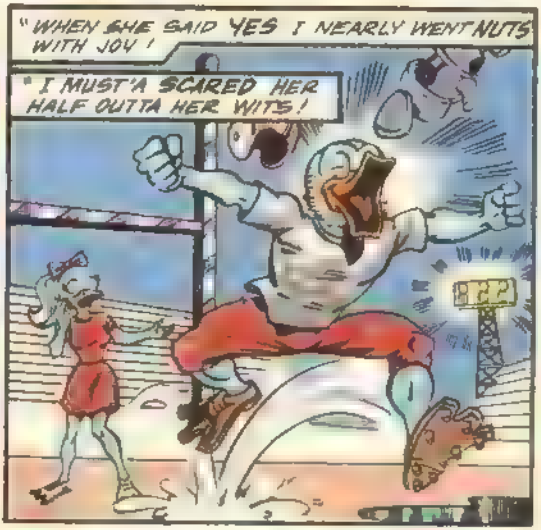
MINUTES LATER, THE BIG CARGO JET LUMBERS ALOFT!
WHY DIDN'T WE JUST JUMP THEM, DUKE?
CAUSE I WANT TO FIND OUT WHO THEY'RE WORKING FOR --
--AND 'CAUSE I THINK CINNAMON CARTER'S ON THIS PLANE!
US AIR FORCE
JUST KEEP IT DOWN--AND HOPE THEY DON'T CHECK BACK HERE BEFORE THEY LAND.
OH, SWELL. AND HOW LONG WILL THAT BE?
AS LONG AS IT TAKES, LADY.
EEN MY COUNTRY, WE HAB A VERY ₰HEEC€ PLEASURABLE WAY FOR PASSING THE TIME...
KEESY-KEESY?
REAL SMOOTH, PABLO. BACK HOME, WE HAD A NAME FOR YOUR KIND OF STYLE.
WE CALLED IT "AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT."
THOP
IT'S NOT ENTIRELY HIS FAULT. BETWEEN HIS DRINKING AND MY PHEROMONES, HE CAN'T CONTROL HIMSELF.
HE DOESN'T EXACTLY HAVE YOUR IRON WILL, EITHER.
NO OFFENSE -- IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH WILL, BERYL
PINK PRIMATES DON'T DO A THING FOR ME.
MAKES SENSE. BUT WASN'T THERE SOMEONE BACK HOME? SOMEONE YOU REALLY CARED ABOUT?
WE MAY AS WELL TALK, DUKE. THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO...

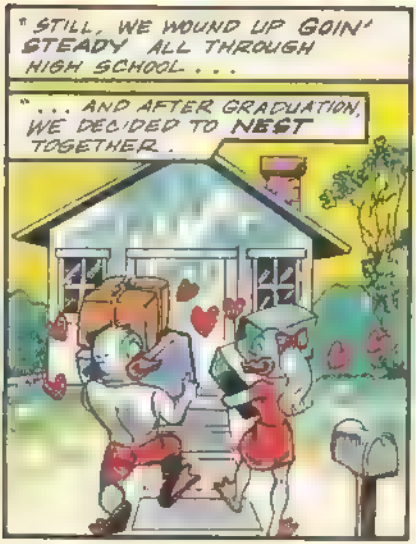

THERE'S NOTHIN' MUCH TO SAY. I WAS NEVER MUCH OF A LOVER-BOY.
"I WAS AWKWARD AROUND GIRLS . . . SO I VENTED MY FRUSTRATIONS IN SHOPCLASS AND FOOTBALL.
' IT WAS AT A NIGHT GAME WITH OUR CROSSTOWN RIVALS THAT I FIRST MET DINAH.
"A CLIP KNOCKED ME INTO THE MUD— AT THE FEET OF OUR RIVALS' CHEERLEADERS.
"WHEN I OPENED MY EYES . . . I WAS STARING RIGHT IN THE FACE OF AN ANGEL.
TEE HEE TOO BAD, BIG BOY. BETTER TURN IN YOUR PADS FOR SOME CRUTCHES!
"SHE WAS ONLY RAZZIN' ME . . . BUT IT HURT . . .
". . . EVEN WORSE THAN THE DRUBBING HER TEAM WAS HANDING US'
' THAT GOT ME MAD. AND WHEN I WENT BACK INTO THE GAME --
-- I KICKED ASS!

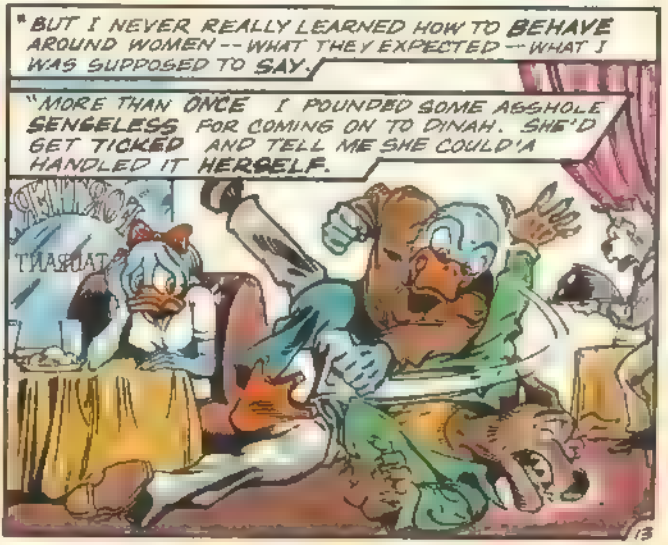

"I PLAYED LIKE A DUCK POSSESSED!
"WHEN THE MUD SETTLED, WE'D BEATEN OUR RIVALS -- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 18 YEARS!

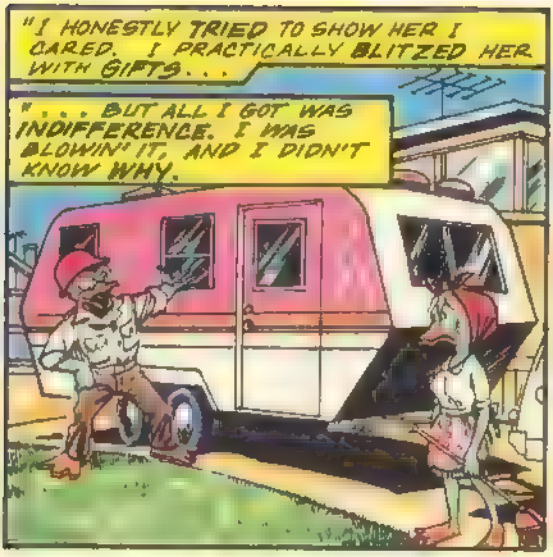

"AFTER THE GAME, DINAH CAME LOOKING FOR ME ... TO APOLOGIZE.
I-I SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE FUN OF YOU. IT MADE YOU ANGRY, AND WE LOST THE GAME.
BESIDES... IT WAS MEAN. I'M SORRY.

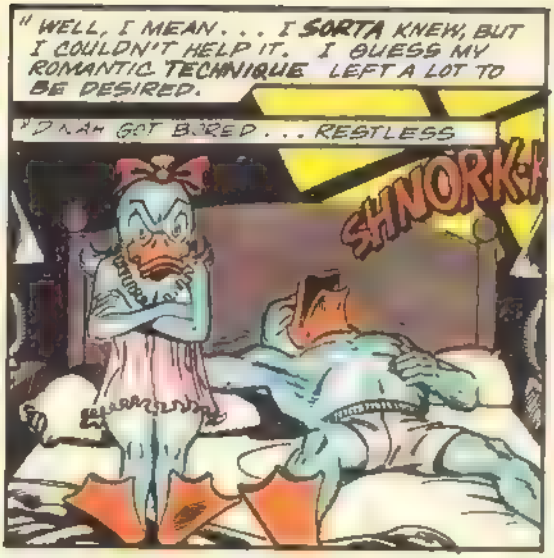

"SHE WAS THE PRETTIEST THING I'D EVER SEEN. I HADDA RISK ASKING HER FOR A DATE.
"I FIGURED THE REJECTION WOULDN'T BE SO HARD TO HANDLE, SINCE SHE WENT TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL, AND ALL...

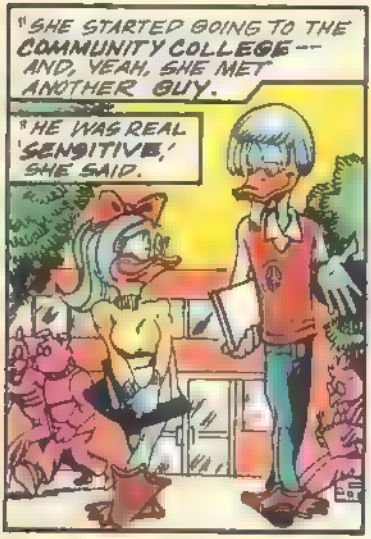

"WHEN SHE SAID YES I NEARLY WENT NUTS WITH JOY!
"I MUST'A SCARED HER HALF OUTTA HER WITS!

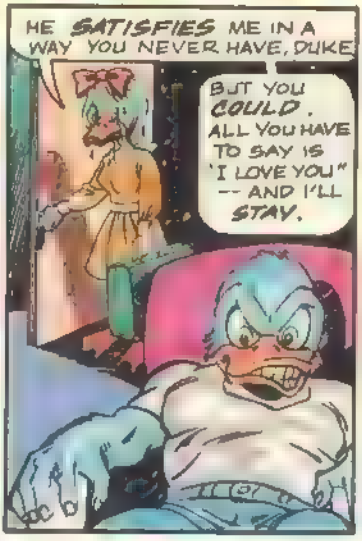

"STILL, WE WOUND UP GOIN' STEADY ALL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL...
"... AND AFTER GRADUATION, WE DECIDED TO NEST TOGETHER.


"BUT I NEVER REALLY LEARNED HOW TO BEHAVE AROUND WOMEN -- WHAT THEY EXPECTED -- WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO SAY.
"MORE THAN ONCE I POUNDED SOME ASSHOLE SENSELESS FOR COMING ON TO DINAH. SHE'D GET TICKED AND TELL ME SHE COULD'A HANDLED IT HERSELF.
THWACK
THWACK

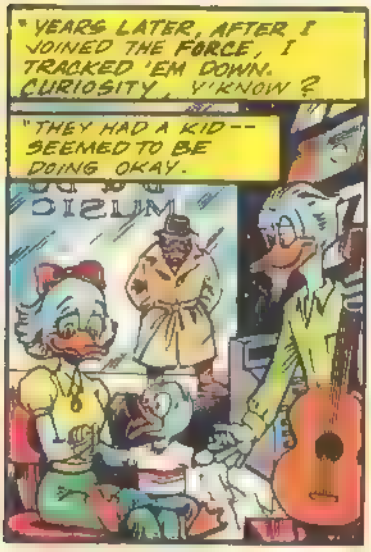

"I HONESTLY TRIED TO SHOW HER I CARED. I PRACTICALLY BLITZED HER WITH GIFTS...
"...BUT ALL I GOT WAS INDIFFERENCE. I WAS BLOWIN' IT, AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHY.

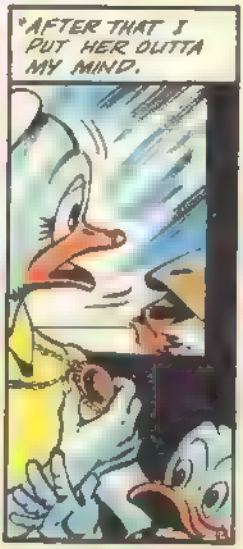

"WELL, I MEAN... I SORTA KNEW, BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT. I GUESS MY ROMANTIC TECHNIQUE LEFT A LOT TO BE DESIRED.
"DAN GOT BORED... RESTLESS
SNORK-K

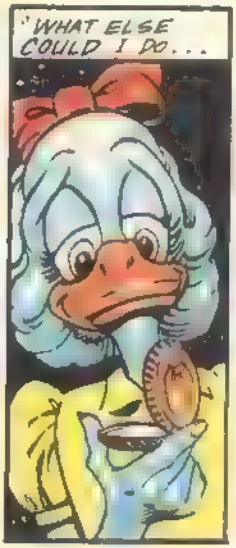

"SHE STARTED GOING TO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE -- AND, YEAH, SHE MET ANOTHER GUY.
"HE WAS REAL 'SENSITIVE,' SHE SAID.

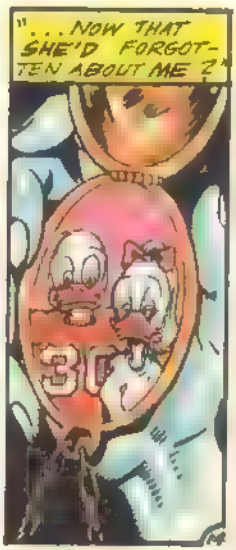

HE SATISFIES ME IN A WAY YOU NEVER HAVE, DUKE
BUT YOU COULD. ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY IS "I LOVE YOU" -- AND I'LL STAY.

"I COULDN'T SAY IT.
SLAM!


"YEARS LATER, AFTER I JOINED THE FORCE, I TRACKED 'EM DOWN. CURIOSITY, Y'KNOW?
"THEY HAD A KID -- SEEMED TO BE DOING OKAY.


"AFTER THAT I PUT HER OUTTA MY MIND.


"WHAT ELSE COULD I DO...


"...NOW THAT SHE'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME?"

ANYWAY... BETTER WAKE PABLO UP, BERYL. FEELS LIKE WE'RE COMING IN FOR A LANDING.
SHORTLY...
I WAS RIGHT. THEY'VE GOT CINNAMON CARTER WITH 'EM!
WE CAN'T FOLLOW ACROSS THE AIRSTRIP, THOUGH -- TOO MUCH LIGHT!
WE'LL CIRCLE AROUND THROUGH THE JUNGLE --TO THE FAR SIDE OF THAT COMPOUND!
EVEN IF WE CAN'T GET IN, MAYBE WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT IT'S FOR!
WAIT ∋HOORP∈ FOR ME! PORFAVOR--!
AND ONCE WE KNOW -- WHAT THEN?
THEN WE FIND A WAY IN, SPRING CINNAMON CARTER, AND HIJACK THAT CARGO JET OUTTA HERE!
HOWTCH!
MEANWHILE, IN THE COMPOUND'S DECONTAMINATION FACILITY...
?GLUB∈ PLEASE--STOP! WHY ARE YOU ∋GLUB∈ DOING THIS?
HYGIENE MISS CARTER. YOUR CLOTHES ARE BEING STERILIZED. WE'LL RETURN THEM TO YOU MOMENTARILY.
AND ALL YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED, I ASSURE YOU.

CINNAMON CARTER-- MEET DR. PARAQUAT!
GREETINGS, YOUNG LADY. SO HAPPY YOU COULD JOIN US.
HIVA, TOOTS! GLADASEEYA!
WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE? WHAT IS THIS PLACE? I DEMAND TO SEE MY LAWYER!
M AFRAID NO VISITORS ARE PERMITTED, MISS CARTER
IT SEEMS FRIGHTENING... AT FIRST. BUT YOU'LL COME TO FORGET YOUR FORMER LIFE, JUST AS THE OTHERS HAVE.
YOU SEE, YOU WON'T BE LEAVING THIS ISLAND -- EVER.
OH MY GOD...!
THEES PLACE GEEVS ME THE 3 HOORD E WHEEM-WHAMS...!
NO KEEDING, DOOK... I THEENK 3HEEC E WE BEEING WATCHED!
IN THAT CASE, MAKE SURE THEY SPOT YOU. THEY'LL THINK THEY'RE HALLUCINATING.

SINCE YOU INQUIRED, THIS COMPOUND HAS A VERY INTERESTING HISTORY.
IT WAS ESTABLISHED AS A STAGING AREA FOR THE INVASION OF JAPAN DURING WORLD WAR II.
BUT... WE DIDN'T INVADE JAPAN.
PRECISELY.
"IT WAS OF NO STRATEGIC USE TO THE MILITARY, BUT IDEAL FOR MY TOP-SECRET RESEARCH.
"MY PARAMILITARY PARAMEDICS ARE BOTH SKILLED GUERILLA FIGHTERS AND MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.
WARNING! HIGH VOLTAGE
"THE ISLAND IS ESCAPE-PROOF, MISS CARTER. JAGGED REEFS AND SHARK-INFESTED WATERS PREVENT ANY CRAFT OR SWIMMER FROM DEPARTING.
"THE AIRSTRIP IS THE ONLY WAY IN OR OUT.
"YOU'LL BE QUARTERED IN THE NEWCOMER'S VILLAGE. THE . . . OTHERS WILL EXPLAIN OUR DAILY ROUTINE TO YOU."
OH, AND A WORD OF CAUTION -- STAY OUT OF THE JUNGLE.
THAT'S WHERE THE TERTIARY CAGES ROAM.

I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD MOVE ALONG THE FENCE! NOW, WE'RE LOST!
YOU MUST BE LOADS OF FUN ON MIGRATION!
WILD DUCKS MIGRATE -- I'M CIVILIZED.
HA!
THERE ARE THINGS IN THE JUNGLE THAT ARE ATTRACTED TO BRIGHT COLORS, LOUD NOISES . . .
. . . AND CAPTIVATING SCENTS, SUCH AS BERYL'S PHEROMONES.
NOT ONLY THINGS . . . BUT WILDLIFE, TOO!
sniff-sniff
ahhh
EEEEK!! DUKE!! HELP!!
WHAT THE FLOCK--?!
hrrrrh
OOT 'IM!
UGH! SLIMEY! I HATE SNAKES!
hhaaahh
QU-AA-GH IT'S TURNED ON ME --!!
YOU WAN' I SHOOD HELP YOU HOLD HEEM . . . ?

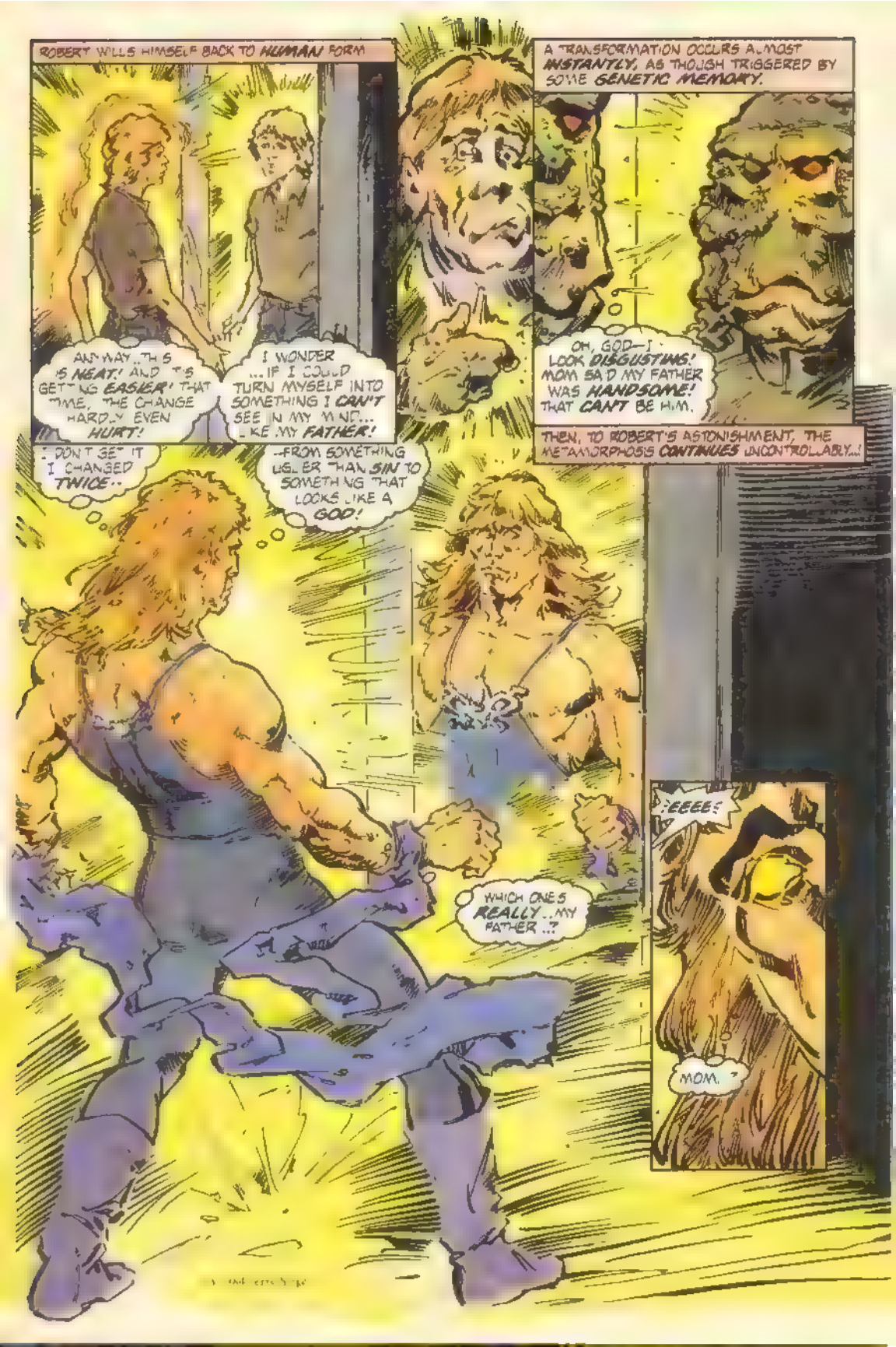
NO, YOU MORON! I WAN' YOU SHOOD HELP ME MAKE HIM LET GO!
UNNGH
hhehhh
TRUNNK!
NOKAY, CHU SLEETHERING BEAST! VAMOOSE FROM MY FRIEN' DOOK, OR--
hrrreghh!
phaaaugh
HOO-HAH! VEECTORY!
WE GOTTA STOP BLUNDERING THROUGH THIS JUNGLE LIKE A BUNCHA STUMBLE-BUMS!
MY PHEROMONES MUST'VE ATTRACTED THAT THING!
IN THIS HEAT, I'M PROBABLY SECRETING GALLONS OF THE STUFF!
ALL THE MORE REASON TO BE CAREFUL! NOTHING ELSE IN THE JUNGLE SMELLS LIKE CHERRIES!
IF THOSE WHITE BERETS GET SUSPI-- HEY! ARE YOU CLOWNS LISTENING TO ME?
IF WE'RE GONNA SAVE CINNAMON CARTER, WE GOTTA-- BERYL!!
WHAT THE BLAZ NG HELL ARE YOU STARING--
--AWWP!!

QUA-AAAGH!
I THEENK... I AM GOING HOORPE TO BE SEEK...
NEXT:
ISLAND OF THE SEMI-LIVING DEAD!

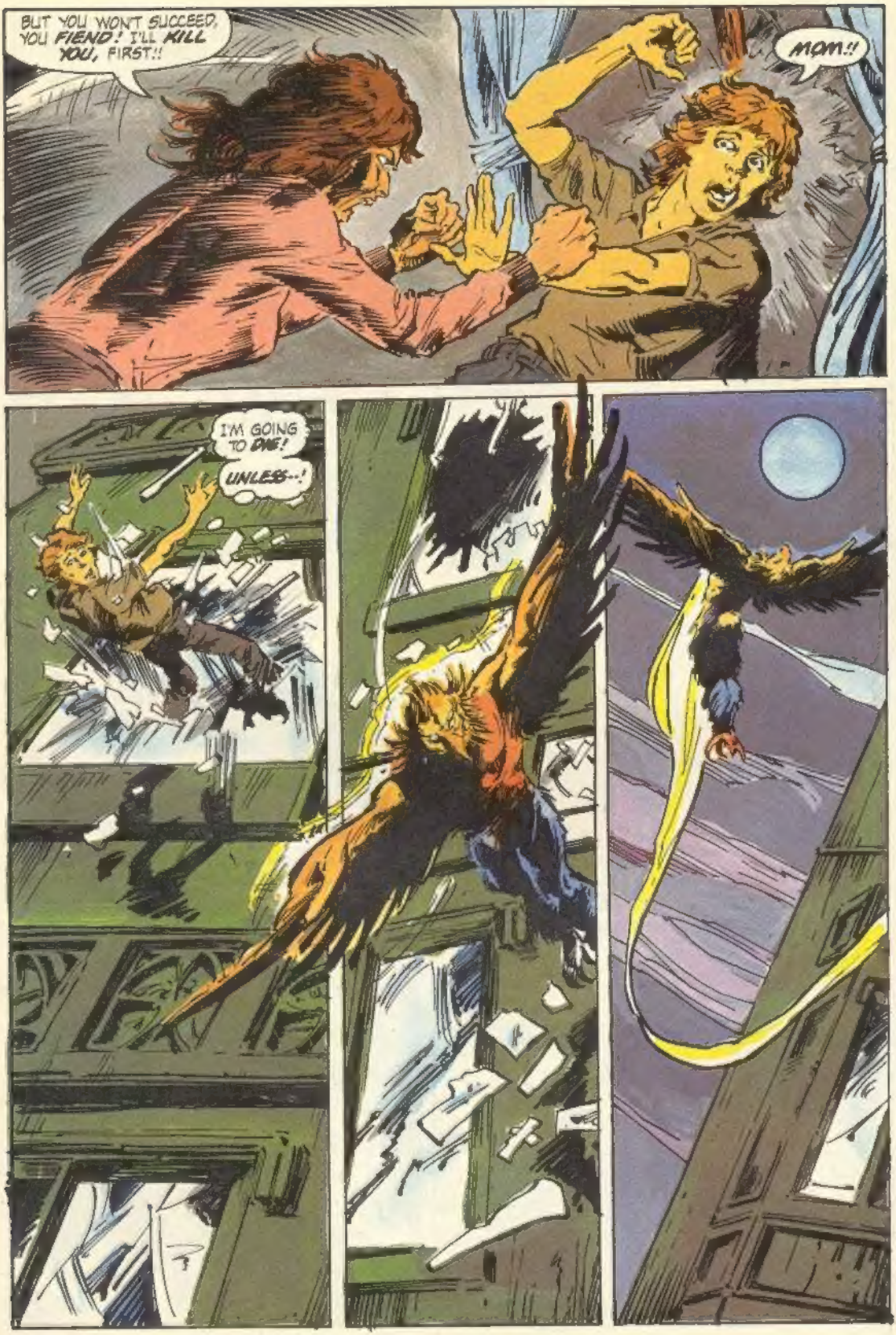
CREATED AND WRITTEN BY
JERRY SIEGEL
ILLUSTRATED BY
VAL MAYERIK
THE STARLING
CHAPTER V
CARRIE McCARTHY, LETTERER
JAN BRUNNER, COLORIST
STEVE GERBER, EDITOR
WHAT MOM SAID ...ABOUT MY FATHER BEING A GLOWING GUY FROM SPACE... CAN IT BE TRUE..." SHE SAID HE RESCUED HER FROM SOME GUYS WHO TRIED TO RAPE HER! THEN HE MADE OUT WITH HER. AND ABANDONED HER
IT SOUNDS LOONY-TUNES, BUT... NOW I'VE GLOWED TOO AND THE GLOWING CHANGED ME INTO A CREATURE...AND THE CREATURE GOT RID OF MOM'S SLEAZY BOYFRIEND..!
WHAT KIND OF THING AM I?? WHAT WAS MY FATHER? WHERE DID HE COME FROM —AND WHY?"
AND WHAT'LL HAPPEN NOW AGAIN?!
I'M DIFFERENT-- DIFFERENT FROM EVERYBODY ELSE IN THE WORLD! I'M SCARED! AND SO ALONE!!!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING ROBERT ZANE ATTEMPTS TO CONFIDE IN HIS MOTHER...
SHUT UP! I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT--EVER!
BUT, MOM...
I'M A WRITER! I SELL LIES ABOUT THE GLORIES OF LOVE TO KEEP YOUR HALF-HUMAN STOMACH FULL!
I LIE TO MYSELF, ROBERT! I TELL MYSELF LOVE DIDN'T DESTROY MY HAPPINESS--AND MY SANITY! THAT'S HOW I FOOL MY READERS!
HUH?
LOVE RUINED ME, ROBERT--AND IF YOU KEEP RUBBING MY NOSE IN IT, WE'LL STARVE!
BUT MAYBE YOU'D LIKE THAT. MAYBE YOU WANT ME TO LOSE EVERYTHING I'VE WORKED SO HARD FOR--EVERYTHING THAT MAKES LIFE BEARABLE!
CONFUSED AND HURT, ROBERT RETURNS TO HIS ROOM...AND REMAINS THERE, UNTIL NIGHT FALLS AGAIN
LAST NIGHT THE CHANGE IN ME HAPPENED BY ITSELF
I WONDER IF I COULD MAKE IT HAPPEN?
EXPERIMENTING, BOB WILLS THE UNKNOWN POTENTIAL WITHIN HIM TO BE ACTIVATED!
I FEEL MORE ALIVE THAN EVER BEFORE--AND FANTASTICALLY STRONG!!
I BET IF I CONCENTRATE HARD AGAIN...
...I CAN CHANGE MYSELF INTO ANY KIND OF CREATURE
MAYBE EVEN ...SOMETHING HORRIBLE!

I DID T- THAT'S ME!
I JUST MADE A PICTURE IN MY HEAD.. AND MY BODY TURNED INTO WHAT I SAW!
WITH THE STRENGTH--THE POWER I FEEL IN THIS BODY--I COULD DO ANYTHING--!!
I COULD-- DESTROY ANYTHING-- A WHOLE CITY IF I WANTED..
HUH? WHAT'M I THINKING OF? I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYBODY..


ROBERT WILLS HIMSELF BACK TO HUMAN FORM
ANYWAY..THIS IS NEAT! AND IT'S GETTING EASIER! THAT TIME, THE CHANGE HARDLY EVEN HURT!
I WONDER ...IF I COULD TURN MYSELF INTO SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE IN MY MIND... LIKE MY FATHER!
A TRANSFORMATION OCCURS ALMOST INSTANTLY, AS THOUGH TRIGGERED BY SOME GENETIC MEMORY.
OH, GOD—I LOOK DISGUSTING! MOM SAID MY FATHER WAS HANDSOME! THAT CAN'T BE HIM.
THEN, TO ROBERT'S ASTONISHMENT, THE METAMORPHOSIS CONTINUES UNCONTROLLABLY...
I DON'T SEE IT I CHANGED TWICE..
--FROM SOMETHING UGLIER THAN SIN TO SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE A GOD!
WHICH ONE'S REALLY..MY FATHER...?
EEEE!
MOM.?

YOU'VE COME BACK TO ME!
YOU DO LOVE ME! YOU MUST--OR YOU WOULDN'T HAVE RETURNED!
I'VE WANTED YOU --I'VE LONGED FOR YOU-- ALL THESE YEARS! TAKE ME! MAKE LOVE TO ME!
WH-WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU PUSHING ME AWAY? I LOVE YOU--!!
MOM! LEMME GO-!
"MOM"--??
EMBARRASSED AND CONFUSED BY HIS MOTHER'S OUTPOURING OF EMOTION, ROBERT LOSES CONTROL.
THE GLOWING INTENSIFIES--BECOMING A DAZZLING, BLINDING BLAZE, AS ROBERT'S SHAPE ALTERS ONCE AGAIN.
IT'S JUST ME, MOM! I CHANGED MYSELF INTO LOOKING LIKE DAD BECAUSE...
EEEGG!!
YOU MONSTER! YOU'RE CRUEL-- HATEFUL-- TERRIBLE! LIKE HIM!
YOU DECEIVED ME! YOU WANT TO DESTROY ME!
N-NO, MOM-- HONEST, I JUST--


BUT YOU WON'T SUCCEED, YOU FIEND! I'LL KILL YOU, FIRST!!
MOM!!
I'M GOING TO DIE!
UNLESS--!

IT'S ME, MOM! YOUR SON! STILL ALIVE! AREN'T YOU GLAD?
WHY DIDN'T YOU DIE? WHY DIDN'T YOU SPARE ME--AND YOURSELF--THE HORROR?!
WHY?!?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER! MONSTEROUS! INHUMAN! UNKILLABLE!
AND YOU'RE SWEET AND KIND, LOVING AND BEAUTIFUL--THE PERFECT MOTHER!
EXCEPT YOU'RE CRAZY!!
HA-HAAA-HAAA!
I--I'M SORRY, MOM. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT! I DIDN'T MEAN TO LAUGH AT YOU!
IT WAS HIS LAUGH --YOUR FATHER'S LAUGH--!
SADISTIC, UNCARING ...COLD AS THE GRAVE!

I WAS SCARED, MOM! THAT'S ALL! YOU SCARED ME!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT I CAN DO THIS WIERD STUFF! I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS POWER!
I DIDN'T ASK TO BE ABANDONED BY YOUR MONSTER OF A FATHER, EITHER! AND I DIDN'T ASK FOR A SON WHO ISN'T HUMAN!
GOOD NIGHT, ROBERT...!
NEXT MORNING, IRMA ZANE GREETS HER SON WITH A CHILLING, UNNATURAL CALM.
MOM...WE GOTTA TALK... ABOUT YESTERDAY...
NO--NO, WE DON'T, ROBERT, WE WILL NEVER AGAIN MENTION YOUR POWERS...OR THE GLOWING...
...OR THE UGLY THINGS YOU DO WITH THEM!
PROMISE!
I PROMISE...
LATER...
I ONLY WANT TO LOOK AT BEAUTIFUL THINGS FROM NOW ON, ROBERT. I WANT US TO BE HAPPY.. ALL THE TIME.
LOOK AT THIS GARDEN. HOW COULD ANYONE BE UNHAPPY IN THIS GARDEN?
YOU'RE HAPPY, TOO, AREN'T YOU, ROBERT? AREN'T YOU?
YES, MOTHER!
NEXT ISSUE! THE SEARING CONCLUSION--AS CHILDHOOD COMES TO A BIZARRE AND SHATTERING END FOR--
THE STRANGE